



CLEAN COPY OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

RECEIVED
NOV 14 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A method of high-speed bag manufacturing, comprising the step of:

731
a. bringing into contact at least one first open thermoplastic fabric section, at least one second open thermoplastic fabric section and at least one film section to form a prepared sheet, said at least one film section selected from the group consisting of polyolefin films, and films sealable to open thermoplastic fabric,

wherein said prepared sheet is capable of being V-folded along a central axis to form a closed butt end, and wherein the opposing overlapping edges of said prepared sheet are capable of being sealed to form a bag having at least one opening.

4. (currently amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein at least one edge of said at least one first open thermoplastic fabric section and at least one edge of said at least one second open thermoplastic fabric section are heat sealed to opposing edges of said at least one film section.

5. (currently amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein said at least one first open thermoplastic fabric section possesses a width at least equal to the combined

widths of said at least one film section and said at least one second open thermoplastic fabric section, such that said central axis is disposed on said at least one first open thermoplastic fabric section.

6. (currently amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein said at least one first open thermoplastic fabric section and said at least one second open thermoplastic fabric section are a cross-laminated thermoplastic nonwoven net-like fabric.

7. (previously added) The method of Claim 3, wherein said at least one film section is a polymeric film capable of receiving print thereon to permit said at least one film section to serve as a label section for said bag.

8. (previously added) The method of Claim 3, wherein said opposing overlapping edges of said prepared sheet are sealed via at least one first thermoplastic sealing strip and at least one second thermoplastic sealing strip.

9. (currently amended) The method of Claim 8, wherein said at least one first thermoplastic sealing strip and said at least one second thermoplastic sealing strip are carried by opposing edges of said at least one first open thermoplastic fabric section, extending perpendicularly from said central axis through the remaining width of said at least one first open thermoplastic fabric section.

10. (previously added) The method of Claim 9, wherein V-folding of said prepared sheet along said central axis results in said at least one first thermoplastic sealing strip and said at least one second thermoplastic sealing strip sealing said opposing overlapping edges of said prepared sheet upon application of heat and pressure thereto.

11. (currently amended) A method of high-speed bag manufacturing, comprising the steps of:

73/ a. bringing into contact at least one first open thermoplastic fabric section, at least one second open thermoplastic fabric section and at least one film section to form a prepared sheet, said at least one film section selected from the group consisting of polyolefin films, and films sealable to open thermoplastic fabric, wherein said prepared sheet is capable of being V-folded along a central axis to form a closed butt end, and wherein the opposing overlapping edges of said prepared sheet are capable of being sealed to form a bag having at least one opening; and

b. sealing said opposing overlapping edges of said prepared sheet via a sealing means.

12. (currently amended) The method of Claim 11, wherein at least one edge of said at least one first open thermoplastic fabric section and at least one edge of said at least one second open thermoplastic fabric section are heat sealed to opposing edges of said at least one film section.

13. (currently amended) The method of Claim 11, wherein said at least one first open thermoplastic fabric section possesses a width at least equal to the combined widths of said at least one film section and said at least one second open thermoplastic fabric section, such that said central axis is disposed on said at least one first open thermoplastic fabric section.

14. (currently amended) The method of Claim 11, wherein said at least one first open thermoplastic fabric section and said at least one second open thermoplastic fabric section are a cross-laminated thermoplastic nonwoven net-like fabric.

15. (previously added) The method of Claim 11, wherein said at least one film section is a polymeric film capable of receiving print thereon to permit said at least one film section to serve as a label section for said bag.

16. (previously added) The method of Claim 11, wherein said sealing means is at least one first thermoplastic sealing strip and at least one second thermoplastic sealing strip.

17. (currently amended) The method of Claim 16, wherein said at least one first thermoplastic sealing strip and said at least one second thermoplastic sealing strip are carried by opposing edges of said at least one first open thermoplastic fabric section,

extending perpendicularly from said central axis through the remaining width of said at least one first open thermoplastic fabric section.

18. (previously added) The method of Claim 17, wherein V-folding of said prepared sheet along said central axis results in said at least one first thermoplastic sealing strip and said at least one second thermoplastic sealing strip sealing said opposing overlapping edges of said prepared sheet upon application of heat and pressure thereto.

19. (currently amended) A method of high-speed bag manufacturing, comprising the step of:

a. bringing into contact at least one first open thermoplastic fabric section, at least one second open thermoplastic fabric section and at least one film section to form a prepared sheet, said at least one film section selected from the group consisting of polyolefin films, and films sealable to open thermoplastic fabric, wherein said at least one first open thermoplastic fabric section possesses a width at least equal to the combined widths of said at least one film section and said at least one second open thermoplastic fabric section such that a central axis is disposed on said at least one first open thermoplastic fabric section, and

wherein said prepared sheet is capable of being V-folded along said central axis to form a closed, butt end, and wherein the opposing overlapping edges of said prepared sheet are capable of being sealed to form a bag having at least one opening.

20. (currently amended) The method of Claim 19, wherein at least one edge of said at least one first open thermoplastic fabric section and at least one edge of said at least one second open thermoplastic fabric section are heat sealed to opposing edges of said at least one film section.

21. (currently amended) The method of Claim 19, wherein said at least one first open thermoplastic fabric section and said at least one second open thermoplastic fabric section are a cross-laminated thermoplastic nonwoven net-like fabric.

22. (previously added) The method of Claim 19, wherein said at least one film section is a polymeric film capable of receiving print thereon to permit said at least one film section to serve as a label section for said bag.

23. (previously added) The method of Claim 19, wherein said opposing overlapping edges of said prepared sheet are sealed via at least one first thermoplastic sealing strip and at least one second thermoplastic sealing strip.

24. (currently amended) The method of Claim 23, wherein said at least one first thermoplastic sealing strip and said at least one second thermoplastic sealing strip are carried by opposing edges of said at least one first open thermoplastic fabric section, extending perpendicularly from said central axis through the remaining width of said at least one first open thermoplastic fabric section.

25. (previously added) The method of Claim 24, wherein V-folding of said prepared sheet along said central axis results in said at least one first thermoplastic sealing strip and said at least one second thermoplastic sealing strip sealing said opposing overlapping edges of said prepared sheet upon application of heat and pressure thereto.

26. (currently amended) A method of high-speed bag manufacturing, comprising the step of:

731 a. bringing into contact at least one first continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric, at least one second continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric and at least one continuous stream of film to form a bag stock, said at least one continuous stream of film selected from the group consisting of polyolefin films, and films sealable to open thermoplastic fabric,

wherein said bag stock is capable of being V-folded along a longitudinally disposed central axis to form a continuous, closed butt end, and wherein said bag stock is capable of being ~~transversely~~ transversely sealed and cut at pre-selected distances to form bags having at least one opening.

27. (currently amended) The method of Claim 26, wherein at least one edge of said at least one first continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric and at least one edge of said at least one second continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric are heat sealed to opposing edges of said at least one continuous stream of film.

28. (currently amended) The method of Claim 26, wherein said at least one first continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric possesses a width at least equal to the combined widths of said at least one continuous stream of film and said at least one second continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric, such that said central axis is disposed on said at least one first continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric.

29. (currently amended) The method of Claim 26, wherein said at least one first continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric and said at least one second continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric are a cross-laminated thermoplastic nonwoven net-like fabric.

30. (currently amended) The method of Claim 26, wherein said at least one continuous stream of film is a polymeric film capable of receiving print thereon to permit said at least one continuous stream of film to serve as a label section for said bag.

31. (currently amended) The method of Claim 26, wherein a plurality of thermoplastic sealing strips are carried by and transversely~~transversely~~ positioned at regular intervals along the longitudinal direction of said at least one first continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric, extending perpendicularly from said central axis through the remaining width of said at least one first continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric, such that said bags cut from said bag stock each possess at least

one first thermoplastic sealing strip and at least one second thermoplastic sealing strip positioned at opposite edges thereof.

32. (currently amended) The method of Claim 31, wherein application of heat and pressure to V-folded said bag stock results in said plurality of thermoplastic sealing strips being transversely~~transversely~~ sealed across V-folded said bag stock.

731
33. (currently amended) The method of Claim 31, wherein each thermoplastic sealing strip of said plurality of thermoplastic sealing strips possess a width at least equal to the combined widths of said at least one first thermoplastic sealing strip and said at least one second thermoplastic sealing strip such that the ~~traverse~~-transverse cutting of said bag stock along each thermoplastic sealing strip of said plurality of thermoplastic sealing strips yields said at least one first thermoplastic sealing strip for a first cut said bag, and said at least one second thermoplastic sealing strip for a second cut said bag.

34. (currently amended) A method of high-speed bag manufacturing, comprising the steps of:

a. bringing into contact at least one first continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric, at least one second continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric and at least one continuous stream of film to form a bag stock, said at least one continuous stream of film selected from the group consisting of polyolefin films, and

731
films sealable to open thermoplastic fabric, wherein said bag stock is capable of being V-folded along a longitudinally disposed central axis to form a continuous, closed butt end, and wherein said bag stock is capable of being transversely ~~transversely~~ sealed and cut at pre-selected distances to form bags having at least one opening; and

b. sealing V-folded said bag stock at said pre-selected distances via a sealing means.

35. (currently amended) The method of Claim 34, wherein at least one edge of said at least one first continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric and at least one edge of said at least one second continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric are heat sealed to opposing edges of said at least one continuous stream of film.

36. (currently amended) The method of Claim 34, wherein said at least one first continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric possesses a width at least equal to the combined widths of said at least one continuous stream of film and said at least one second continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric, such that said central axis is disposed on said at least one first continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric.

37. (currently amended) The method of Claim 34, wherein said at least one first continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric and said at least one second continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric are a cross-laminated thermoplastic nonwoven net-like fabric.

38. (currently amended) The method of Claim 34, wherein said at least one continuous stream of film is a polymeric film capable of receiving print thereon to permit said at least one continuous stream of film to serve as a label section for said bag.

731
39. (currently amended) The method of Claim 34, wherein said sealing means is a plurality of thermoplastic sealing strips carried by and transversely ~~traversely~~ positioned at regular intervals along the longitudinal direction of said at least one first continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric, extending perpendicularly from said central axis through the remaining width of said at least one first continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric, such that said bags cut from said bag stock each possess at least one first thermoplastic sealing strip and at least one second thermoplastic sealing strip positioned at opposite edges thereof.

40. (currently amended) The method of Claim 39, wherein application of heat and pressure to V-folded said bag stock results in said plurality of thermoplastic sealing strips being transversely ~~traversely~~-sealed across V-folded said bag stock.

41. (currently amended) The method of Claim 39, wherein each thermoplastic sealing strip of said plurality of thermoplastic sealing strips possess a width at least equal to the combined widths of said at least one first thermoplastic sealing strip and said at least one second thermoplastic sealing strip such that the ~~traverse~~-transverse

cutting of said bag stock along each thermoplastic sealing strip of said plurality of thermoplastic sealing strips yields said at least one first thermoplastic sealing strip for a first cut said bag, and said at least one second thermoplastic sealing strip for a second cut said bag.

42. (currently amended) A method of high-speed bag manufacturing, comprising the step of:

13.1
a. bringing into contact at least one first continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric, at least one second continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric and at least one continuous stream of film to form a bag stock, said at least one continuous stream of film selected from the group consisting of polyolefin films, and films sealable to open thermoplastic fabric, wherein said at least one first continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric possesses a width at least equal to the combined widths of said at least one continuous stream of film and said at least one second continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric such that a central axis is longitudinally disposed on said at least one first continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric, and

wherein said bag stock is capable of being V-folded along said central axis to form a continuous, closed butt end, and wherein said bag stock is capable of being transversely~~transversely~~ sealed and cut at pre-selected distances to form bags having at least one opening.

43. (currently amended) The method of Claim 42, wherein at least one edge of said at least one first continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric and at least one edge of said at least one second continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric are heat sealed to opposing edges of said at least one continuous stream of film.

73-1
44. (currently amended) The method of Claim 42, wherein said at least one first continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric and said at least one second continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric are a cross-laminated thermoplastic nonwoven net-like fabric.

45. (currently amended) The method of Claim 42, wherein said at least one continuous stream of film is a polymeric film capable of receiving print thereon to permit said at least one continuous stream of film to serve as a label section for said bag.

46. (currently amended) The method of Claim 42, wherein a plurality of thermoplastic sealing strips are carried by and ~~transversely~~^{transversely} positioned at regular intervals along the longitudinal direction of said at least one first continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric, extending perpendicularly from said central axis through the remaining width of said at least one first continuous stream of open thermoplastic fabric, such that said bags cut from said bag stock each possess at least

one first thermoplastic sealing strip and at least one second thermoplastic sealing strip positioned at opposite edges thereof.

731
47. (currently amended) The method of Claim 46, wherein application of heat and pressure to V-folded said bag stock results in said plurality of thermoplastic sealing strips being transversely~~transverse~~ sealed across V-folded said bag stock.

48. (currently amended) The method of Claim 46, wherein each thermoplastic sealing strip of said plurality of thermoplastic sealing strips possess a width at least equal to the combined widths of said at least one first thermoplastic sealing strip and said at least one second thermoplastic sealing strip such that the ~~traverse~~transverse cutting of said bag stock along each thermoplastic sealing strip of said plurality of thermoplastic sealing strips yields said at least one first thermoplastic sealing strip for a first cut said bag, and said at least one second thermoplastic sealing strip for a second cut said bag.
